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Castro's Hatred for the U.S. Began Several Years Ago

The events in Cuba, as bad as they may be, are just a repetition of what went on there before the ill-conceived invasion of the United States-supported Cuban patriots.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has repeated that the U.S. has no plans for armed intervention of the Caribbean island, which has fallen almost irretrievably into the hands of the Sino-Soviet Communist world.

At a hearing of the Latin American Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate the Secretary reiterated this country's stand before the invasion.

Simultaneously, the U.S. warned U.S. citizens in Cuba to leave the island lest they be harassed by the Castro government. Last September the State Department urged American businessmen to send their families home and two months before seriously advised against tourist movement to Cuba from the U.S.

It sounds like stale news to us, regardless of the dramatic setback suffered by the U.S. two weeks ago. In fact, when haven't American citizens been harassed by Castro, even before his revolt met success on New Year's Day in 1959?

When the Cuban rebel was holed up in the Sierra Maestra of Oriente Province he did more than scorn Americans. He took direct action against us then more so than he does now.

In 1958, six months before the Castro regime took over Cuba, Raul Castro led rebel forces on a series of kidnaping raids. Between June 26 and July 1, 45 United States and three Canadian nationals were kidnaped. Five of those kidnaped, including four Americans and one Canadian, were released unharmed to U.S. Navy authorities on July 2.

In the first of these raids on June 26, 200 Castroite rebels swooped down on the town of Moa in eastern Cuba, routed a 13-man Cuban Army garrison and kidnaped 12 engineer employees of the Freeport Sulphur Co. of New York, which was engaged in nickel and cobalt production.

Two days later, 29 U.S. servicemen, mostly Marines, were captured en masse as they returned by bus to the Guantanamo Navy Base. One other serviceman was captured while on a stroll.

On June 30, two officers of the Nicaro nickel plant in northern Oriente were abducted by eight rebels, as were two sugar mill employees. The same day, four other U.S. sugar mill employees were kidnaped in the village of Guaro.

All were released later, which is beside the point. Castro's excuse at that time was that the kidnapings were in retaliation for military aid given by the U.S. to former President Batista.

Castro demonstrated clearly then his hatred of Americans. By reflection now what is astounding is the blind ignorance of his menace by the U.S. State Department, more particularly, its Central Intelligence Agency.

It is too late now for us to do anything in Cuba except treat it like any Communist-bloc nation. We would no more think of invading Cuba now than we would intend an invasion of Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Poland. Since our intentions are known to the world, i.e., the absolute denouncement of the Castro Communist government, any war-like menacings on our part would come as an afterthought.

It would do no good. In the meantime, we can pick up the pieces of our serious defeat, and that would mean, first of all, a revamping of the CIA, which led us into the blunder of thinking that Castro was little harm in the first place, and, more seriously, failed to lead us out.